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LOK SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 8th April, 1976:—

BILL No. 23 OF 1976

A Bill to provide for prevention and eradication of whooping cough from the country.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Twenty-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title and commencement.

1. (*1*) This Act may be called the Whooping Cough Prevention and Eradication Scheme Act, 1976.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Measures to be taken by the Government for prevention and eradication of whooping cough.

2. The Central Government, alongwith the State Governments, in the respective States, shall be responsible for the provision of curative measures and control of whooping cough in the States and Union territories and for taking preventive measures with a view to arrest the spread of the disease and its complete eradication from the country.

Organisations for examination of patients suffering from whooping cough.

3. The Government of the State/Union territory and the local authority shall establish and maintain adequate organisation for detection, registration and examination of persons suffering from whooping cough.

Setting up of whooping cough clinics in endemic areas.

4. In endemic areas, after 25,000 of population, there shall be set up by the Government of the State/Union territory a clinic for the patients suffering from whooping cough.

Functions of whooping cough clinic.

5. The functions of a whooping cough clinic shall be—

(a) examination and treatment of persons found to be suffering from whooping cough;

(b) treatment of patients at their homes if unable to attend the clinic;

(c) medical surveillance for patients under home isolation.

Segregation of patients suffering from the disease.

6. Persons suffering from chronic whooping cough shall be kept and treated in segregation in isolation centres to be established by Government of the State/Union territory at district level in the endemic area and such a person shall remain there until he is certified by the concerned Medical Officer as cured and non-infective.

Special training of medical men to arrest the disease.

7. The Central and State Governments shall arrange for special training of medical men in the prevention and control of whooping cough.

Occupational training and financial aid for rehabilitation of patients.

8. The persons incapacitated due to whooping cough shall be given suitable training in different occupations during their stay in clinics established under clause 6 and shall be given adequate financial aid, to be prescribed by the Government, for their rehabilitation, after they are discharged from the clinics.

Preference in Government employment.

9. The whooping cough patients who have been certified as cured shall be given preference in the matter of employment in the Government offices, projects and undertakings.

Power to make rules.

10. The Central Government in consultation with the State Governments, shall have power to frame rules, from time to time, to carry out the purposes of this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Whooping cough has invaded the length and breadth of the country. In India, it has been found that thousands and thousands of patients are victims to the cruel hand of this disease but none takes care to be treated and cured nor there are efforts at the State level to arrest the spread of it.

Whooping cough has been found to be the most contagious disease. It is always a chronic one and is not easily curable. Once a person is infected, he gradually loses his health and is subjected to several types of ailments which may even go to the extent of causing damages in the brain, blindness and even epileptic seizures. In India no patient takes it seriously thereby leading to a great deterioration in the national health. Further there is great scope for its communications as patients suffering from it are always amongst us.

The Government has initiated a Malaria eradication scheme. This has gone to a considerable extent to arrest the march of Malaria. But communicable disease like the whooping cough has always been viewed with indifference. It is right time that the Government should pay attention to its prevention and also adopt measures to eradicate it from the country once for all.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI; YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL.

The 18th December, 1975.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 of the Bill, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India on account of various provisions for prevention and cure of whooping cough patients contained in the Bill, particularly the establishment of clinics and isolation centres for whooping cough patients in the Union territories. As under clause 2 of the Bill, in the States also, the Central Government would be responsible alongwith the States for various measures, the grants-in-aid will have to be made to the States. A recurring expenditure of about twenty-five lakhs of rupees is, therefore, likely to be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A Non-recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty lakhs is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 10 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to frame rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. The delegation of power is of a normal character.

S. L. SHAKDHER,
Secretary-General.

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